

MATTHEWIS PERSEN HOUSE



moved to the bluff above and built the 1,200 x 1,300 foot wall from tree trunks pounded into the ground. The streets of the original village remain laid out just as they were in 1658.

Learn more about the diverse heritage of Ulster County at www.ulstercountyalive.com.

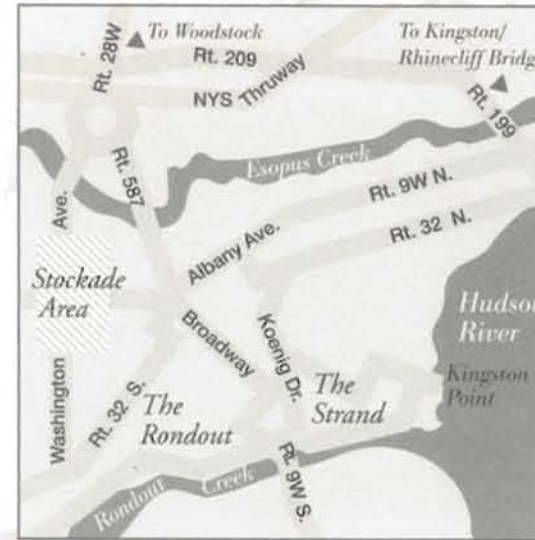
Named after its longest resident, Matthewis Persen (1739-1819), the Persen House is located within Kingston's Stockade National Historic District. Its earliest portions date from c.1661 and it is one of four landmark buildings on each corner of John and Crown Streets. This is the only intersection in the United States with 18th century stone houses on all four corners.

This neighborhood was established just a few years before the Persen House began construction. In 1658, a group of 60-70 European settlers living along the Esopus Creek

Approximate location of Persen House



Miller map of Kingston Stockade area in 1695 as designated by Governor Peter Stuyvesant.



GETTING HERE:

The Persen House is in the heart of Kingston's historic Uptown Stockade District at the corner of John and Crown Streets just minutes from Exit 19 of the NYS Thruway (I-87) via Washington Avenue.

HOURS

Memorial Day Weekend to Labor Day Weekend Hours
9 am – 4:30 pm Tuesday - Friday & 9 am – 3 pm Saturdays

After Labor Day to Pre-Thanksgiving Weekend
Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm

And By Appointment

A House Tour

THE MATTHEWIS PERSEN HOUSE

Ulster County's Heritage Gateway

In the Uptown Stockade National Historic District of Kingston, NY



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:
Ulster County Tourism
www.ulstercountyalive.com

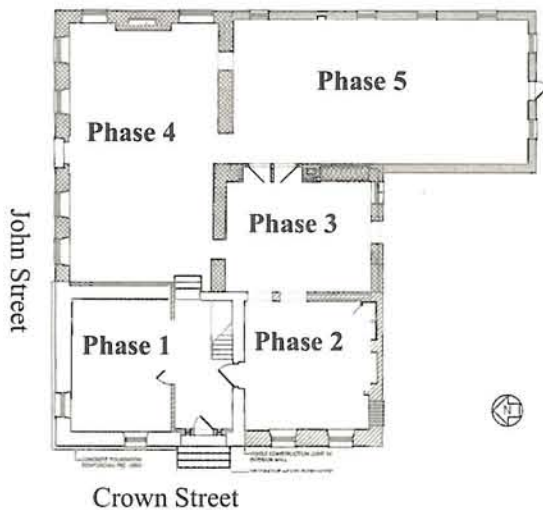
Michael Hein, Ulster County Executive
Nina Postupack, Ulster County Clerk

ULSTER COUNTY WELCOMES YOU

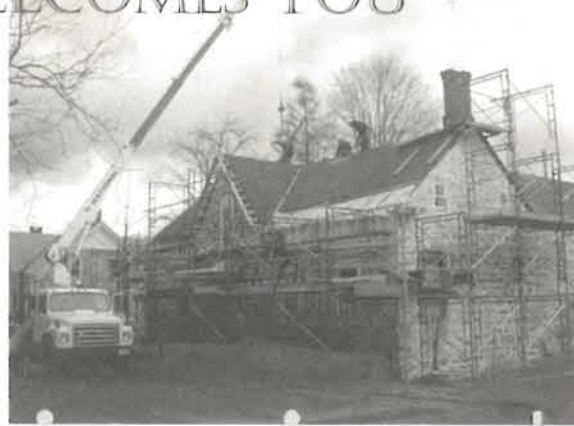
to the Persen House, one of our oldest, most significant buildings. This house has witnessed so many important moments in Ulster County's history. It was burned at least twice, saw wars and revolution, and was home to doctors, tailors, grocers, druggists, and innkeepers.

As we walk through the building, we walk through time. Each section was built in a different period, 5 phases, and the restoration was carefully done to respect and reveal this history.

The Persen House has been owned by Ulster County Government since 1914 and was used as the office for Cornell Cooperative Extension agricultural services. The restoration began in 1999 after the occupants were moved out due to structural instability.



The general floor plan above shows the five chronological "phases" in which the Persen House was built.



Restoration (1999-2003) in progress. The work was made possible in part by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation through a grant from the Environmental Protection Fund.

Ulster County's extensive restoration took years and uncovered over 20,000 archaeological artifacts. These were meticulously catalogued and archived. Several objects are on display in the house. This tour is designed to take you chronologically through each phase of the building's history.

PHASE 1 (C. 1661-1669)

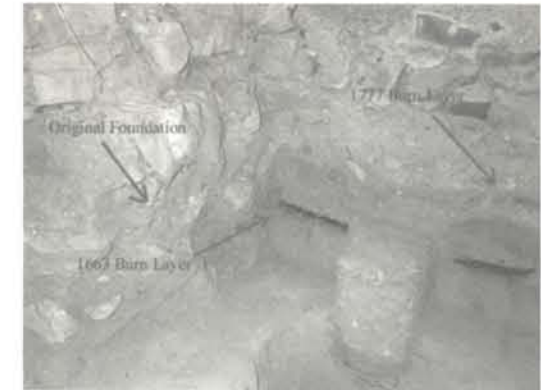
Built of wood on a stone foundation in 1661, the house was burned in a 1663 Indian attack and rebuilt in stone probably that same year. All living, eating and sleeping happened in this one room dwelling with cellar below and loft above for storing valuable farm products. Gysbert Van Imbroch, a surgeon from New Amsterdam, occupied this house. There were about 50 houses within the stockade. This corner of John and Crown Street is the only corner in North America occupied by four Pre-Revolutionary stone structures.

PHASE 2 (C. 1669-1720)

This stone addition was added to the earlier structure perhaps in the 1720s. It too has a cellar and loft, accessed first by ladder, then by a stairwell, after the loft area was converted to living space. Doctor John Goodwin kept an office here in the late 1800s. He may have installed the French wallpaper, as seen over the hallway door. The window to the right of the English fireplace had been a door to an open porch, long since removed. Replacement beams were fit to the deflected floor. A timber framed wall shows brick infill and framed openings to Phase 3.

PHASE 3 (C. 1698-1735)

It has been discovered that this area was once a wood-framed barn/kitchen/scullery and attached to Phase 2 by a hand-hewn stud wall and infilled with soft handmade bricks. Second floor framing revealed an opening for a large fireplace structure rebuilt here as a typical jambless 17th century Dutch fireplace. This phase was built without a cellar, making the dirt floor the original height of uptown Kingston's streets. Since the dirt floor was undisturbed, this is where an archaeological dig discovered over 20,000 artifacts, including burn layers of both the 1663 and



The burn lines prove that this building has witnessed the span of Kingston's history.

the 1777 conflagrations, and a posthole from the 1661 stockade expansion.

PHASE 4 (C. 1735-1922)

Here the house comes into the possession of the Persen family. Cornelius Persen, Matthew's father, and his brother Adam run a tailor shop. Later the two-family house is converted to a single family. By the late 1700s Matthew Persen opens a public house or tavern and this room and its upstairs become the main rooms of the inn. By 1914 Ulster County acquires the site for use by the Farm & Extension Services and this area and others are partitioned into office spaces.

PHASE 5 (C. 1922-1999)

A two-story brick addition is added by Ulster County in 1922. Certain stone walls and framing details of the house were altered or removed to accommodate the addition. Decisions of the time were economic, not historical. The building became offices for the local 4-H Club, the Agricultural Department, the forerunner of the Cornell Cooperative Extension, and various other departments and offices.

While you're in Kingston: Complete your visit with a walk through time.

- Savor a bounty of fresh picked, locally grown produce at a farmers market.
- Explore wildlife and history as you paddle a kayak along a Hudson River tributary.
- Enjoy this city of the arts in our many galleries, museums, and arts venues.
- Try our many highly-rated restaurants.

KINGSTON FARMERS' MARKET

(Wall St. between John & Main Streets)

Fresh baked bread, hand-crafted artisan cheese, locally grown fruits and vegetables, and more. Open Saturdays, from May-Nov., 10 am – 2 pm.

For a complete list of vendors visit:

www.kingstonfarmersmarket.com



HUDSON RIVER MARITIME MUSEUM

Follow the Hudson River through time with displays and collections featuring boats, models, photographs, paintings and artifacts. Exhibits cover a wide range of topics including the river's history, industries, ecology and environment.



Open May – Oct 31. Call: 845-338-0071 or visit: www.hrm.org

KINGSTON KAYAKS

Explore the wildlife and history of Kingston's great waterways. Trips for beginner or intermediate paddlers. Trips take place every Sunday at a time of your choice. Other days and times can be arranged.



To register call: 845-331-1682, ext 7336. www.forsythnaturecenter.org/kayak.htm

FIRST SATURDAY ART RECEPTIONS

First Saturday of the month only.

Kingston's city-wide art receptions are every first Saturday of the month in the city named one of "America's Best Places for Artists" by *Business Week*. See full schedule of events and openings in the *Gallery Guide* at the Arts Society of Kingston (ASK) website: www.askforarts.org



ULSTER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (UPAC)

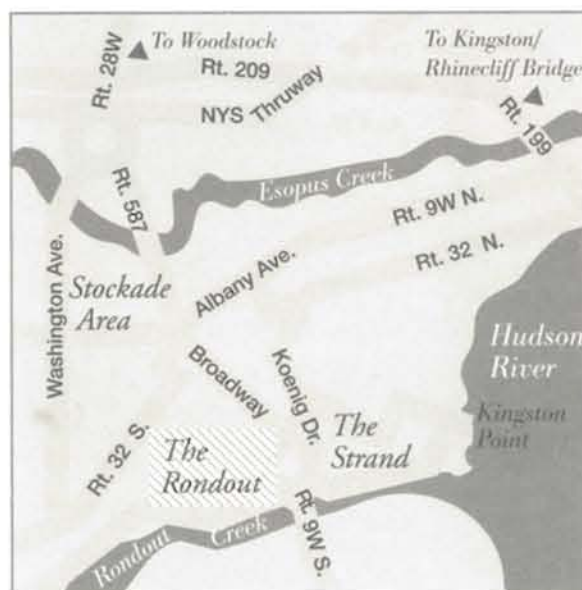
Built in 1926, this National Historic 1400-seat theater is the largest between New York City and Albany and features world-class musical performances.



601 Broadway. Box office: 845-339-6088. www.upac.org.



The Rondout waterfront is also a National Historic District in Kingston. This maritime area thrived in the 19th century with the D&H Canal. Today it is a busy destination with museums, restaurants, galleries, and parks.



Ulster County is alive with history.

Ulster County is rich with industrial, recreational, agricultural, and architectural heritage. The National Register of Historic Places lists over 160 sites and 27 historic districts in Ulster County, including Old Hurley, Huguenot Street in New Paltz, Saugerties Village, Pine Hill in Shandaken, and Kingston's various districts. Our industrial heritage is also a great asset, from the cement mines in Rosendale, bluestone operations in the Catskills, and brick industry on the Hudson, to the historic railroads and waterways such as the Catskill Mountain RR and the D&H Canal. The diversity of our history is also notable, with Native American, Dutch and British settlements, as well as the home of many generations of immigrants. Kingston is the home of the Hudson Valley's oldest existing synagogue. This was also the home of African-American abolitionist and women's rights activist Sojourner Truth.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE HERITAGE OF ULSTER COUNTY, VISIT:

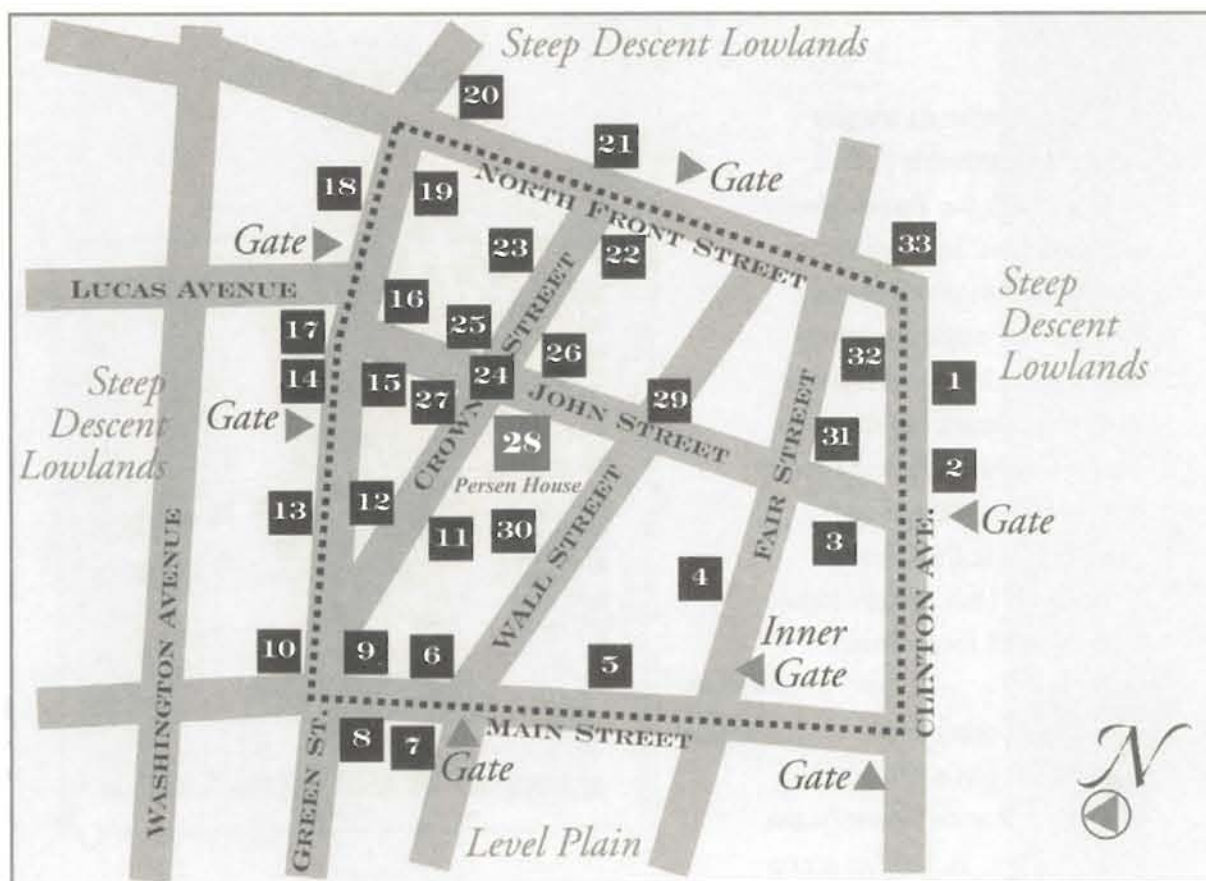
Ulster County Tourism
www.ulstercountyalive.com
1-800-342-5826

Ulster County Clerk
www.co.ulster.ny.us/archives
Ulster County Historical Society
www.bevierhousemuseum.org
1-800-338-5614

Friends of Historic Kingston
www.fohk.org or 845-339-0720

The Persen House sits right in the middle of the Uptown Kingston Stockade National Historic District, one of the oldest neighborhoods in America.

#32 THE 1696 SENATE HOUSE > 331 Clinton Avenue. Start your tour at the oldest public building in America.



These maps were created by CRSR Designs, Kingston, NY on behalf of the Friends of Historic Kingston.

- 1 VISITOR CENTER (1837) 308 Clinton Ave.
- 2 AMELIA WESTBROOK HOUSE (c. 1831) 292 Clinton Ave.
- 3 20 JOHN STREET (c. 1836)
- 4 VOLUNTEER FIREMAN'S MUSEUM (1857) 26 Fair St.
- 5 OLD DUTCH CHURCH (1659/1852) 272 Wall St.
- 6 FRED J. JOHNSTON MUSEUM/ FRIENDS OF HISTORIC KINGSTON MUSEUM (c. 1812) 63 Main St.
- 7 DR. CORNELIUS ELMENDORF HOUSE (1725) 255 Wall St.
- 8 TOBIAS SWART HOUSE (c. 19th C.) 74 Main St.
- 9 DR. JAMES ELEMENDORF HOUSE (c. 18th C.) 77 Main St.
- 10 JACOB TREMPER (c. 18th C.) Green and Main Sts.
- 11 CORNELIUS TAPPEN HOUSE (1777) 10 Crown St.
- 12 HENRY SLEIGHT HOUSE (l. 17th C.) At the pie-shaped junction of Green and Crown Sts.
- 13 JUDGE LUCAS ELMENDORF HOUSE (c. 1790) 111 Green St.
- 14 COLONEL ABRAHAM HASBROUCK HOUSE (mid-1700s) 135 Green St.
- 15 GERRETT VAN KEUREN HOUSE (c. 1725) 138 Green St.
- 16 DR. LUKE KIERSTED HOUSE 95 John St.
- 17 EGBERT DUMOND HOUSE (c. 1690) 147 Green St.
- 18 DR. JACOBUS C. ELEMENDORF HOUSE 175 Green St.
- 19 ANTHONY HOFFMAN HOUSE (c. 1658) 96 North Front St.

- 20 FROG ALLEY HOUSE RUINS (c. 1665) Just outside NW corner of Stockade area.
- 21 ANTHONY FREER HOUSE 61 North Front St.
- 22 PEACE PARK Site of former Jacobus S. Bruyn House, corner of North Front and Crown Sts.
- 23 ABRAHAM LOUW HOUSE (l. 1700s) 55 Crown St.
- 24 THE FOUR CORNERS (l. 1700s) At John and Crown Streets.
- 25 DR. MATTHEW JANSEN HOUSE (cir. 1700, orig.) 43 Crown St.
- 26 FRANZ ROGGEN HOUSE (cir. 1752) 42 Crown St.
- 27 KINGSTON ACADEMY (est. 1774) 35 Crown St.
- 28 MATTHEWIS PERSEN HOUSE (mid 1600s to 1920) 74 John St.
- 29 WALL STREET (19th c., 1970s arcades)



- 30 ULSTER COUNTY COURTHOUSE (engraving above, 1818) 285 Wall St.
- 31 LOUGHRAN HOUSE 296 Fair St.
- 32 THE 1696 SENATE HOUSE 331 Clinton Ave.
- 33 JOHN TREMPER HOUSE (1802) 1 North Front St.

The extension of the Persen House visiting hours and the vision of creating a shared interpretive center for heritage in Ulster County are the initiative of the offices of Ulster County Executive Michael Hein and Ulster County Clerk Nina Postupack. For more information about the heritage of Ulster County, visit www.ulstercountyalive.com.

For more information on Kingston, visit:
KINGSTON HERITAGE AREA VISITORS CENTER 20 Broadway,
845-331-7517, www.ci.kingston.ny.us